

'Israel could act against nuclear Iran'

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli member of parliament from the ruling Labour Party has warned that the Jewish state might have to act alone to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power unless the West acted first. The news agency Itar-Tass said, "Western nations must know that if they do not do what is demanded in order to prevent Iranian nuclear power, Israel according to its considerations and security," Itar-Tass quoted Ephraim Sneh, parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, was speaking to a gathering of Labour Party members. He said foreign estimates calculated the decade. That, Itar-Tass quoted him as saying, would pose an insurmountable risk to the existence of the Jewish state. In June 1992 General Herzl Bodinger, the head of Israel's air force, said the Jewish state could be at any country that introduced nuclear weapons into the Middle East. Israel bombed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in June 1981. Foreign media and academic reports say Israel has nuclear weapons.

Volume 17 Number 5298

AMMAN TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1993 THU EL QU'DEH 13, 1413

German opposition leader quits

BONN (AFP) — The leader of Germany's main opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD), Joachim Engholm, resigned Monday after admitting lying to a parliamentary inquiry about a smear campaign against him six years ago. The resignation deprives the SPD of its greatest hope for snatching the German chancellorship away from Helmut Kohl in elections due late next year. In a six-part statement released Monday afternoon, Mr. Engholm confirmed his evidence to the commission of inquiry into the so-called Borsig affair had called his political credibility into question. "Because of this incident... my political credibility has been put in question," said the 53-year-old politician. "Without this confidence, I can no longer represent either my province of Schleswig-Holstein or my party with the same impartiality and the same success as before," he said. The Borsig affair, during the September 1987 election campaign for Schleswig-Holstein between Mr. Engholm and Uwe Barschel, of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), was one of the biggest scandals in post-war Germany.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by Jordan Press Foundation

Price: Jordan 100 Gls; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Israelis kill 4 in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli soldiers shot and killed four Palestinians near the Bureij refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip Monday, an Israeli army spokesman said. The four victims were in a car which allegedly tried to run down border guards at a road block, the spokesman said.

Iranians in pursuit of rebels in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The Iranian army Monday shelled Iranian Kurdish bases and pursued an incursion in northern Iraq for the third straight day, the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) said. The KDPI spokesman in Baghdad, Ghaffur Hamdi, said armoured units backed by Revolutionary Guards were deployed five kilometres inside Kurdish-held northern Iraq, up to the village of Penjwin. Several people were injured in shelling of positions of the KDPI and the Iranian Kurdish communist party Komala, he told AFP, without giving details on casualties or the number of Iranian troops taking part in the incursion. Iraqi Kurdish sources have said the operation was launched Saturday, but Tehran has not reacted to the reports. On Sunday, Iraq threatened to retaliate against Iranian threats to its sovereignty.

Sudan welcomes U.S. decision on terrorism

AMMAN (R) — A Sudanese official has welcomed a U.S. decision not to classify his country as a state sponsor of "terrorism." A U.S. State Department report issued on Friday continued to express concern about Sudan but did not list it among countries, including Iran, Iraq, Cuba, Libya, North Korea and Syria, which it believes sponsor "terrorism." "It's truly a positive indicator that Sudan was not classified as a country sponsoring terrorism like Libya, Iran and Cuba," Deputy head of the Sudanese parliament, Mohammad Al Amin Al Basir, told Reuters.

Moroccans to attend Israeli exhibition

TEL AVIV (R) — A delegation of Moroccans including close associates of King Hassan will attend an Israeli agricultural exhibition this week, an agriculture ministry spokeswoman said Sunday. Morocco has no formal diplomatic relations with the Jewish state, but the king has played an active behind-the-scenes role in mediating Middle East peace efforts. The spokeswoman declined to comment on a report in the daily newspaper Davar that businessmen from Saudi Arabia and Arab Gulf states would also take part in the five-day "Israel Agritech Spring '93" exhibition.

Iraq offers special status to oil firms

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The Iraqi government will give special treatment to foreign oil firms if they take action that results in ending the U.N. embargo, a parliamentary leader said. Those who take an initiative to lift the embargo will not be on the same footing with those who do not.

Safa Al Omari, the chairman of the Iraqi parliament's international relations committee, told AFP. Without going into any details, he said he was speaking not of a "privilege but special treatment" which would apply to American, French, Italian and any other oil companies.

Hariri in Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri arrived Monday and met with Sultan Qaboos, part of a Gulf tour to seek help in rebuilding his country. After their meeting, Sultan Qaboos was quoted by the Omani News Agency (ONA) as saying the outcome of the meeting was "good... as it was a meeting between two friends." The agency also quoted him as saying that they had an understanding of all issues that were discussed. Gulf states have pledged \$2.5 billion for a Lebanon reconstruction fund. But none has been paid despite the lapse of more than two years since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war.

King: Jordan will continue to work for better Arab World

His Majesty meets Palestinian delegation, Parliament speakers and celebrations panel

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Monday Jordan would continue to contribute to transforming the Arab Nation from its present status to what it should be through the participation of everyone in shouldering responsibilities, democracy, political pluralism, respect for human rights and mutual respect between all members of the Jordanian family regardless of origins.

In a meeting with a delegation representing the Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, King Hussein expressed confidence in the "inevitability of the triumph of the righteous side in the Arab-Israeli conflict," saying any peaceful settlement should be lasting and just, honourable and acceptable to future generation.

"We will work with all our energies and capabilities for this kind of peace and we will pursue a new dawn to follow this long period of darkness," the King told the delegation which arrived in Amman last week to participate in the Kingdom's celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the King's assumption of constitutional powers.

The King thanked the delegation members for their visit, saying links between Jordanians and Palestinians make the two peoples one family united in its aspirations and pains.

The King thanked the delegation for the Dome of the Rock miniature they presented him as a gift on the occasion in gratitude for his donation of \$8.2 million for the reconstruction of the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem.

He also lauded the steadfastness of Palestinians in their occupied lands and expressed hope that the day would come when they will be living on their national soil, enjoying their full rights.

"Patience and perseverance in

facing challenges will, by God's will, produce the desired results."

The King said the Arab Nation was passing through a very difficult period and expressed confidence that it would achieve its aspirations and the Arabs would have their full rights in their great Arab Homeland.

Jerusalem Mufti Suleiman Al Jabbat and head of the charitable committee of Gaza Strip Mansour Al Shawar delivered addresses in which they paid tribute to King Hussein's leadership and principles based on the principles in his names and on behalf of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The meeting, which was held at the Royal Court, was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs Adel Iskandar.

Earlier Monday, His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat who

(Continued on page 5)

Sarajevo generally quiet; 'ethnic cleansing' continues

SARAJEVO (AP) — Explosions and machine-gun fire decreased in the Bosnian capital early Monday, a day after the Bosnian Serbs had signed a U.N. peace plan.

Although shelling could be heard before dawn in the western edge of the city and machine guns crackled near the U.N.-controlled airport, attacks were less frequent than in previous days.

"There is a general air of cautious optimism," said U.N. spokesman Barry Frewer.

U.N. officials said half the rounds apparently were fired by Bosnian government troops.

In Sarajevo, Tony Land, an official of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said Monday that minority Croats and Muslims were being forced from the Serb-controlled area of Banja Luka in an acceleration of "ethnic cleansing."

He said after seven residents were killed in a short period of time, 150 Muslims from Banja Luka's 3,000 residents were to be transferred Monday by local Red Cross officials to safety in central Bosnia.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic signed the peace plan Sunday dividing Bosnia into 10 semi-autonomous provinces. His

France gropes for reasons of ex-premier's suicide

PARIS (AP) — President François Mitterrand paid his respects Monday to Pierre Beregovoy as politicians and press debated whom to blame for driving the former premier to suicide.

Mr. Beregovoy's body lay in state at the Val de Grace hospital in Paris. Several prominent figures, including Mitterrand advisers described as "stunned," visited the chapel throughout the day.

The body was to be flown later to the central city of Nevers, where Mr. Beregovoy, 67, shot himself with his bodyguard's pistol. He was pronounced dead in Paris before he could undergo emergency brain surgery.

The suicide has stunned the nation and left commentators groping to explain it. Blame has been directed at enemies, allies, media and investigators. Some have called for reform of the rough-and-tumble political system.

"The suicide of Pierre Beregovoy should cause many people to at the very least examine their consciences," former Premier Laurent Fabius said in a letter to the newspaper Le Monde.

Britain, Spain, Portugal,

Russia suggests U.N. panel on Lockerbie

CAIRO (Agencies) — Russia and Libya have suggested an international tribunal under U.N. auspices try two Libyans accused of the 1988 Pan Am airliner bombing that killed 270 people, Arab diplomats said Monday.

Western governments said last month they might ask for new United Nations sanctions against Libya, including a possible oil embargo, to force it to hand over two nationals suspected of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

"Both Libya and Russia are proposing that an international court be established under the supervision of the (U.N.) Security Council to try the two Libyan suspects in a neutral country," one Arab diplomat told Reuters.

Diplomats said the suggestion was a new attempt to end a year-old crisis between the West and Libya over the venue of a trial before sanctions come up for renewal in August.

A Cairo-based Russian diplomat refused to comment on the proposal. Arab diplomats said there were no immediate signs the United States and Britain would accept the idea.

Philippine President Fidel Ramos said Monday that Libya has asked the Philippines to support its appeal to lift the U.N. embargo imposed on it.

"I assured Libya that we will study all of these matters very, very carefully since there are so many angles connected thereto," Mr. Ramos told reporters after meeting with Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa Al Munib.

Farewell celebrations, with

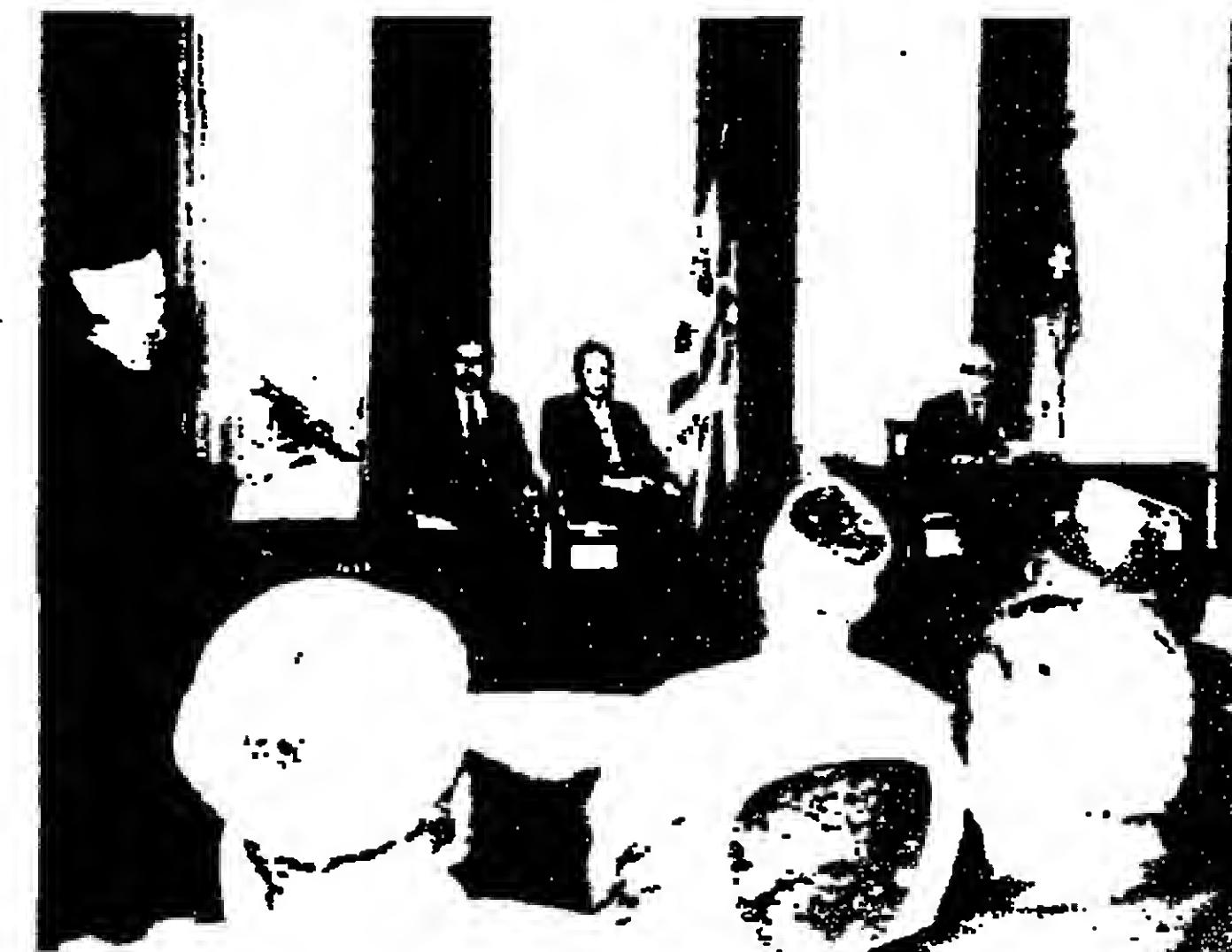
ANZ Grindlays Bank

AMMAN — The ANZ Bank Executive Director, International Banking Alister Maitland and ANZ's Regional General Manager, Middle East David Smith arrive in Amman on Tuesday 4 May for a three-day visit to Jordan.

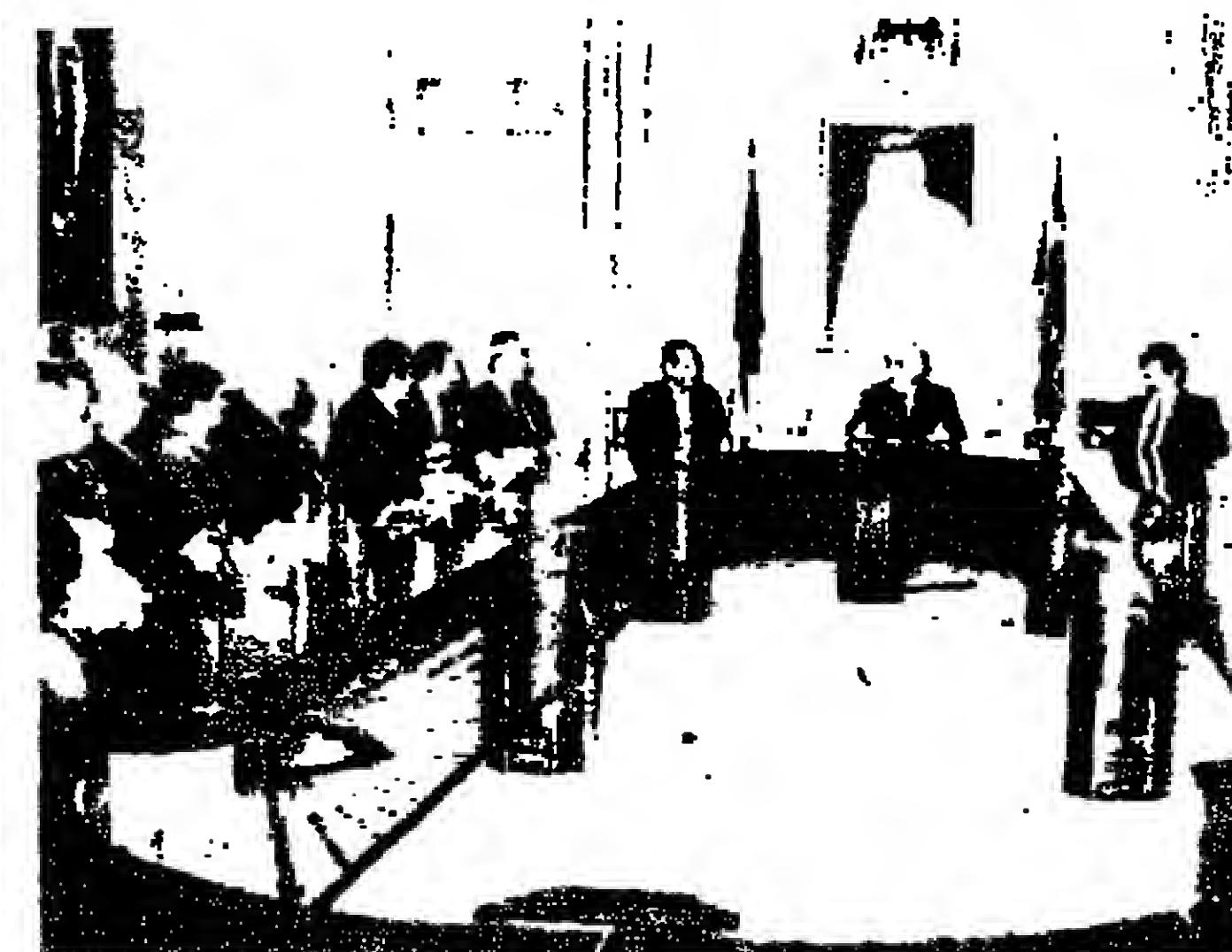
This will be the first visit to the region for Mr. Maitland who has had a long career in banking in Australia and New Zealand. He is now one of Australia's leading and most influential figures on economic and financial matters relating to the banking and finance industry.

He is looking forward to deepening his knowledge of the Jordanian economy at a time when both it and ANZ Grindlays Jordan are expanding.

Mr. Maitland's programme will include meetings with senior Jordanian officials and



His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets with a delegation representing Palestinians in the occupied territories and (right) a national committee which organised this week's celebration of the 40th



anniversary of the King's assumption of constitutional powers (Petra photo)

Peace talks resume amid hopeful signs

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Middle East peace talks resumed Monday with bilateral sessions between Israeli and Arab delegations amid optimistic statements following a three-day weekend break.

Bilateral talks opened at the State Department between Israel and delegations from Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. Another session involving Israel and Jordanian delegations was scheduled for later Monday.

Israel's delegation chief Elyakim Robinstein said he expected serious discussions with the Palestinians following the formation of working groups on human rights, land and water and a "concept committee" which will deal with various issues including jurisdiction and legislative powers. These committees were made even sweeter to the Palestinian negotiators when Palestinian experts from the diaspora were allowed to participate. Ahmad Al Khalidi was accepted as a member of the concept committee and Camille Mansour on the land and water committee. The Americans added a carrot of their own when they committed themselves to share information on Israeli settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories with the Palestinians, a demand that the negotiators have been haggling with the Americans over for the past year and a half.

There is even more. The

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians say they on 'listening mode'

By Nermene Murad
in Washington

PALESTINIAN negotiators last week told journalists that they were in a "listening mode" awaiting positive engagement from the Israelis on a number of demands concerning negotiating strategy and confidence building measures (CBM). This week — the last before delegations scheduled return to their respective governments and leadership — they will be listening more attentively.

On the last day of the first week of negotiations, Israeli negotiators appeared to have come to the negotiating table with a number of "positive gestures" to open the door for more serious and in-depth engagement between the two sides. But, as one Palestinian negotiator cautions, this first step signals the opening of one door but it may not necessarily lead to the unveiling of substantive talks. "They opened the front gate but behind that there are a lot of doors still be opened," he said.

14 exiles and families cross the bridge

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

KING HUSSEIN BRIDGE — Rawhi Al Khatib, the Israeli-expelled mayor of Jerusalem, crossed the River Jordan Monday leading a group of 14 Palestinian and their families back to their homes in the occupied territories after a four-month suspension in the



Refugees' pose for a group photo at the King Hussein Bridge (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

popular Palestinian songs to the accompaniment of bagpipes and drums and dances with swirling swords, were held

at the Palestinian mission in Amman as well as the border control point a few kilometres from the bridge before the

group departed.

(Continued on page 2)

'Refugees' go down in history, page 2

The Italian Embassy in Jordan

and
the Italian Institute for External Commerce invite all Jordanian specialised companies to attend the

"Technological Symposium on Medical Equipment"

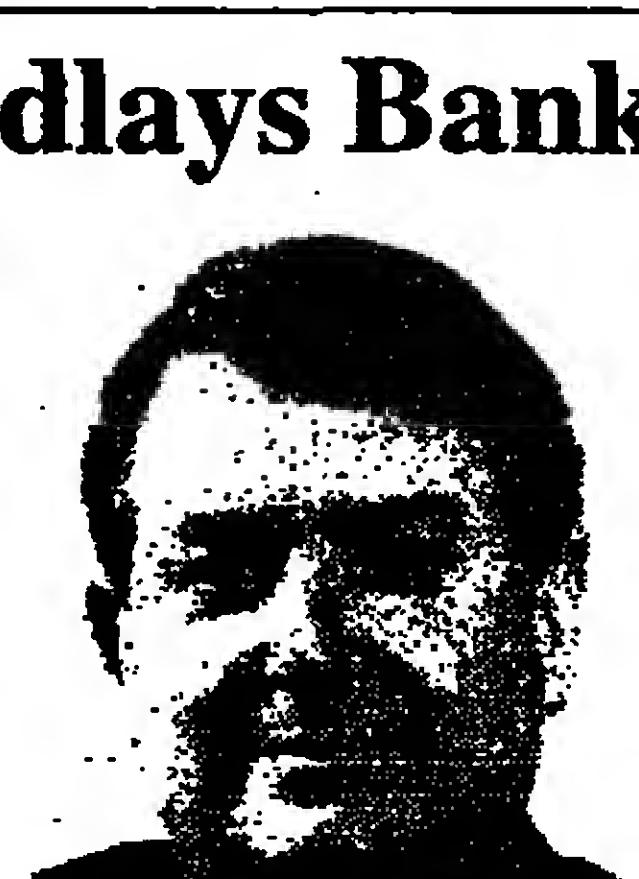
which will be held on May 15th and 16th, 1993

at the InterContinental Hotel, Amman

starting 10:00 a.m.

The Italian companies coming from Italy will present themselves and their products.

For further information, please call the Second Secretary of the Italian Embassy in Amman, Dr. Raffaele de Benedictis (Ph. 638185, Fax 659730, P.O.Box 9800) or Dr. Hani H. Shaheen (MBF Representative, Ph. and Fax 683028, P.O.Box 926775, Amman)



Mr. Alister Maitland

economists and a reception to be hosted by ANZ Grindlays General Manager for Jordan Adnan Sallakh and Mrs. Salikh.

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1993

Iraq restricts foreign travel to prop up dinar

BAGHDAD (R) — The government imposed stiff duties Monday on Iraqis going abroad as part of its drive to prop up the value of the dinar, which fell to a record low against the U.S. dollar last week.

The cabinet, in approving the recommendations of a special ministerial committee, decreed that except for diplomats and their families and students Iraqi citizens will have to pay 15,000 dinars each time they leave the country.

That translates to about \$250 on the black market (and \$5,000 at the official rate, unchanged since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis) but is a great deal of money in Iraqi terms.

The government, short of hard currency in its third year under tight United Nations trade sanctions, has limited means of intervening to strengthen the Iraqi currency.

When the dinar fell to 95 to the dollar, the government took an unannounced decision last Monday to stop buying dollars for vital imports. That brought the dinar up to 75 to the dollar but weakened as the special committee worked on further measures.

Newspapers said President Saddam Hussein chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the council of ministers to "discuss the reasons and aspects related to the rate of exchange of the Iraqi dinar in relation to foreign currencies."

The cabinet then held what was described as an extraordinary meeting "to put the new measures into action."

A brief statement issued after the meeting did not specify the other measures endorsed by both the revolution command council and the cabinet.

But it said "suitable instructions have been issued to translate it (the study) into steps that must be applied and adhered to stringently."

Pope calls on Iraqi Christians not to emigrate

BAGHDAD (R) — An emotional message from Pope John Paul expressing his hope that Iraqi Christians remain in their country was read out at a Sunday mass in Iraq.

Thousands of Christians have left Iraq, hit by U.N. trade sanctions after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and many are waiting on the Mediterranean island of Malta for other countries to consider their requests for asylum.

Many of the refugees perished in the snow capped mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan in an exodus to Turkey at the start of the 1991 Gulf war. Others drowned when their boats capsized on their way from Turkey to Greece.

"I share the hope that they stay in this country to perpetuate the heritage fed by their ancestors," the Pope said, according to an Arabic translation of a message he addressed specifically to Iraqi Christians.

The message was delivered to the Chaldean patriarch, Rafa'el Bedaweed, by Papal envoy Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, prefect of Oriental Congregations at the Vatican.

Mr. Bedaweed read out the appeal to a small congregation at a mass in a spacious church courtyard south of Baghdad.

Mr. Silverstrini, arriving in Bagdad Saturday, has been given a warm welcome in Iraq. He is scheduled to meet Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz.

Iraqi Christians from all denominations were present at the mass. The message was the first public acknowledgement by the church's highest authorities that the number of Christians in Iraq was decreasing at an alarming rate.

"The whole church is in solidarity with you at the hour of

"On the whole, these measures will inevitably lead to strengthening the value of the Iraqi dinar above its current rate," the statement said.

Baghdad travel agents said they expected a sharp decline in the number of Iraqis travelling to Jordan, the country's only outlet due to U.N. air travel sanctions.

Traders say currency speculation has also largely been restricted in Baghdad where people used to be seen changing money openly in parts of the capital.

The traders said the new travel duty sent the dinar up to 65 to the dollar from about 80 Sunday.

Cutting the number of Iraqis going abroad reduces demand for dollars, relieving pressure on the dinar.

Before the new duty was announced there were no special restrictions on citizens travelling abroad. Iraqis are legally allowed to take 300 and 1,000 Iraqi dinars with them when travelling abroad.

But some Iraqis try to make money by taking cigarettes, jewellery and other goods with them to sell in Jordan.

Iraq wants to fly pilgrims

Iraq wants to fly pilgrims to Mecca and has asked neighbouring countries for use of their airspace, Parliamentary Speaker Saadi Mahdi Saleh said Monday.

Mr. Saleh said Tehran, Amman and Riyadh had been contacted to allow an Iraqi aircraft to fly Muslims to the annual pilgrimage, which this year takes place in the last 10 days of May.

"Most of the pilgrims are elderly. The journey overland is exhausting for them and during the last pilgrimage, some of them died while enroute," he told AFP.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Ali Besharati said Sunday that Tehran would consider the request.

By Marium M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

The welcome with kisses, cheers, drums, Palestinian flags and ultimatums given to the first batch of Palestinian exiles who returned to the occupied territories from Jordan, the returnees were not prepared for the huge Israeli settlements that greeted them.

"I never expected them to be this huge," said Fayek Warad, who was expelled from his hometown of Al Taybeh in 1967.

The looks of bewilderment at seeing relatives they had never met could not be missed in the faces of the returnees.

"A whole generation is here that I have never met. It's incredible," said an amazed Hanan Nasir.

A still greater surprise was the uncontrollable, euphoric happiness with which the Palestinian crowds met the returnees.

Scores of young people sat on the roof of the bus while others broke the windows when the bus driver refused to open the door before reaching the main bus stop after the bridge.

"We will always remember

but no taking off of our clothes," said Salam Kana'an, daughter of returnee Faisal Kana'an of Nablus.

While the Israeli search is commonplace for Palestinians entering the occupied territories from Jordan, the returnees were not prepared for the huge Israeli settlements that greeted them.

"I never expected them to be this huge," said Fayek Warad, who was expelled from his hometown of Al Taybeh in 1967.

The looks of bewilderment at seeing relatives they had never met could not be missed in the faces of the returnees.

"A whole generation is here that I have never met. It's incredible," said an amazed Hanan Nasir.

A still greater surprise was the uncontrollable, euphoric happiness with which the Palestinian crowds met the returnees.

Scores of young people sat on the roof of the bus while others broke the windows when the bus driver refused to open the door before reaching the main bus stop after the bridge.

"We will always remember

Haq, with two.

The overall popular vote figures for each party have not been released. Some 2.7 million people, including half a million women, registered to vote in this country of 14 million people.

Parliament is to convene within two weeks to elect a presidential council, which in turn will appoint a president of the republic before the new government can be chosen. There is little doubt that Mr. Saleh will win a new term.

Ishab and other opposition parties charged the ruling parties with election abuses, including fielding "independents" who turned out to be government supporters.

They also accused the ruling parties of making unfair use of government-owned news media and inflating voter rolls to their advantage.

Ishab is led by two powerful

leaders, Abdul Majed Al Zindani and Sheik Abdallah Al Ahmar, who had independent power bases in the country even before founding the party. Sheikh Zindani is a fiery preacher and Sheik Abdallah, a major tribal leader.

Becoming a formal party and winning a sizable bloc of seats in parliament gives them a base to pursue their demands, including sex-segregated schools, a liquor ban and stressing Islamic law.

But observers played down the possibility of Islamic-instigated ferment such as the turmoil in Algeria, stressing that Yemeni society remains largely tribal.

A diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that "while Ishab has its point of view and will seek to have it shared, its political leadership recognises the need to work with in the system."

Leaders, Abdul Majed Al Zindani and Sheik Abdallah Al Ahmar, who had independent power bases in the country even before founding the party. Sheikh Zindani is a fiery preacher and Sheik Abdallah, a major tribal leader.

Becoming a formal party and winning a sizable bloc of seats in parliament gives them a base to pursue their demands, including sex-segregated schools, a liquor ban and stressing Islamic law.

But observers played down the possibility of Islamic-instigated ferment such as the turmoil in Algeria, stressing that Yemeni society remains largely tribal.

A diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that "while Ishab has its point of view and will seek to have it shared, its political leadership recognises the need to work with in the system."

Leaders, Abdul Majed Al Zindani and Sheik Abdallah Al Ahmar, who had independent power bases in the country even before founding the party. Sheikh Zindani is a fiery preacher and Sheik Abdallah, a major tribal leader.

Becoming a formal party and winning a sizable bloc of seats in parliament gives them a base to pursue their demands, including sex-segregated schools, a liquor ban and stressing Islamic law.

But observers played down the possibility of Islamic-instigated ferment such as the turmoil in Algeria, stressing that Yemeni society remains largely tribal.

A diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that "while Ishab has its point of view and will seek to have it shared, its political leadership recognises the need to work with in the system."

Leaders, Abdul Majed Al Zindani and Sheik Abdallah Al Ahmar, who had independent power bases in the country even before founding the party. Sheikh Zindani is a fiery preacher and Sheik Abdallah, a major tribal leader.

Becoming a formal party and winning a sizable bloc of seats in parliament gives them a base to pursue their demands, including sex-segregated schools, a liquor ban and stressing Islamic law.

But observers played down the possibility of Islamic-instigated ferment such as the turmoil in Algeria, stressing that Yemeni society remains largely tribal.

A diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that "while Ishab has its point of view and will seek to have it shared, its political leadership recognises the need to work with in the system."

Leaders, Abdul Majed Al Zindani and Sheik Abdallah Al Ahmar, who had independent power bases in the country even before founding the party. Sheikh Zindani is a fiery preacher and Sheik Abdallah, a major tribal leader.

Becoming a formal party and winning a sizable bloc of seats in parliament gives them a base to pursue their demands, including sex-segregated schools, a liquor ban and stressing Islamic law.

But observers played down the possibility of Islamic-instigated ferment such as the turmoil in Algeria, stressing that Yemeni society remains largely tribal.

A diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that "while Ishab has its point of view and will seek to have it shared, its political leadership recognises the need to work with in the system."

Leaders, Abdul Majed Al Zindani and Sheik Abdallah Al Ahmar, who had independent power bases in the country even before founding the party. Sheikh Zindani is a fiery preacher and Sheik Abdallah, a major tribal leader.

Becoming a formal party and winning a sizable bloc of seats in parliament gives them a base to pursue their demands, including sex-segregated schools, a liquor ban and stressing Islamic law.

But observers played down the possibility of Islamic-instigated ferment such as the turmoil in Algeria, stressing that Yemeni society remains largely tribal.

A diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that "while Ishab has its point of view and will seek to have it shared, its political leadership recognises the need to work with in the system."

Leaders, Abdul Majed Al Zindani and Sheik Abdallah Al Ahmar, who had independent power bases in the country even before founding the party. Sheikh Zindani is a fiery preacher and Sheik Abdallah, a major tribal leader.

Becoming a formal party and winning a sizable bloc of seats in parliament gives them a base to pursue their demands, including sex-segregated schools, a liquor ban and stressing Islamic law.

But observers played down the possibility of Islamic-instigated ferment such as the turmoil in Algeria, stressing that Yemeni society remains largely tribal.

A diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that "while Ishab has its point of view and will seek to have it shared, its political leadership recognises the need to work with in the system."

Leaders, Abdul Majed Al Zindani and Sheik Abdallah Al Ahmar, who had independent power bases in the country even before founding the party. Sheikh Zindani is a fiery preacher and Sheik Abdallah, a major tribal leader.

Becoming a formal party and winning a sizable bloc of seats in parliament gives them a base to pursue their demands, including sex-segregated schools, a liquor ban and stressing Islamic law.

But observers played down the possibility of Islamic-instigated ferment such as the turmoil in Algeria, stressing that Yemeni society remains largely tribal.

A diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that "while Ishab has its point of view and will seek to have it shared, its political leadership recognises the need to work with in the system."

Leaders, Abdul Majed Al Zindani and Sheik Abdallah Al Ahmar, who had independent power bases in the country even before founding the party. Sheikh Zindani is a fiery preacher and Sheik Abdallah, a major tribal leader.

First batch of 'returnees' goes down in history

these people because they were the first," said a drummer youth in Jericho.

The fact that none of the first batch or the second batch of returnees which departed for the occupied territories Monday belonged to Yasser Arafat's Fatah group seemed to lose its significance when returnee told crowds in Jericho, Ramallah, Ajlun, Bir Zeit, Al Taybeh and Nablus that they had the intifada and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership to thank for their return.

"Who is this one? Who is this one?" shouted the teenage boys playing the drums in the open bus stop. Once their names were known, the songs heralding their return began.

"It is the happiest day of my whole life," said Mr. Saleh as youths carried him on their shoulders.

"Is this happening? Is this really happening? Are we really in Palestine?" asked teary-eyed Nasir as he hugged his two sisters and was pushed along by a singing crowd.

The names and faces of the "first" will forever remain imbedded in the minds of the Palestinians in the occupied territories as those who began what people believe will be a "wave of return."

"We will always remember

Palestine head George Habash.

Mr. Arafat, the PLO chairman, spoke by phone from Tunis to a crowd of about 7,000 people who had assembled in the football field of the Rawda school in Ramallah to welcome back the returnees on Friday.

With the telephone receiver attached to a loudspeaker, Mr. Arafat congratulated the deportees on their return and assured the crowd that with members of the Palestine National Council on "the soil of Palestine statehood is not far behind." Although his voice was hardly audible, the crowds cheered and whistled as they heard Chairman Arafat's voice.

Eight of last Friday's returnees are PNC members.

Palestinians crowded rooftops, balconies and walls to welcome back their returnees.

Speech after speech given by local union and party organisers as well as the returnees praised the peace talks, but warned that the return of 30 exiles should mark a new beginning and not be considered an accomplishment in and of

itself.

No single returnee failed to mention first and foremost their insistence that the 396 exiles in Maj Al Zohour must be unconditionally returned.

"The PLO has come home," said Dr. Nasir, President of Bir Zeit University.

Addressing some 2,500 students on the campus of the university Saturday, Dr. Nasir said "The PLO's main base is not in Tunis, it is right here in occupied Palestine."

Dr. Nasir is expected to return immediately to his work as university president. Other returnees will be slow in returning to the jobs and positions they left behind some 20 years ago.

"I would like to stay home, write and be with my family," said Mr. Saleh in his home in Al Bireh. Hundreds of members of the Al Bireh community however, were expecting Dr. Saleh to take up his position as mayor again.

"I will have to respect the wishes of the people, but I would not take up the position of mayor unless there were elections," Dr. Saleh told the Jordan Times Saturday.

Exiles, families return home

(Continued from page 1)

Permission will not be given to those expelled after the Palestinian intifada began in December 1987.

It was clear on the bridge Monday that the Israeli army was under clear instructions to facilitate the travel of the group and perhaps not to subject them to the humiliating treatment that is usual for Palestinians crossing into the occupied territories.

In fact, it was a senior Israeli army officer who sent an urgent message to the group waiting on this side that a Palestinian delegation was expected on the other side and suggested that the exiles and their families — 85 in all — wait for its arrival.

Among the delegation were Zuhaira Kamal and Ziyad Al Ziyad, both members of the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian negotiating team, Jamil Tarifi, a prominent Israeli-Arab physician who has sometimes acted as a go-between for Israel and the PLO, and Nihad Abu Ghreibah, an activist.

Despite the jubilation of the occasion, thoughts that some of the exiles were leaving behind some of their family members were painful; and so were those of others whose loved ones had passed away in the occupied territories since their exile.

Under a maze of confusing Israeli parameters, special permissions are required for some of the family members and the procedures have to be completed by the head of the family with the Israeli occupation authorities.

Home News



His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets with visiting Belgian External Trade Minister Robert Urbain (Petra photo)

Jordan, Belgium explore new trade, cultural avenues

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday met at the Royal Court with visiting Belgian Minister of External Trade Robert Urbain and discussed economic relations between Jordan and Belgium.

Belgium's role at the head of the European Community (EC) rotating presidency which starts in July also came under discussion at the meeting attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court Khaled Al Karaki, Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour, as well as Jordan's Ambassador to Belgium Talal Al Hassan and Belgian Ambassador to Jordan Pierre du Muellenae.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday expressed Jordan's keenness to promote its relations with Belgium.

The on-going international developments require that nations step up their cooperation in all fields in order to benefit their people and attain further progress, said the prime minister at a separate meeting in his office with the visiting Belgian trade delegation.

At the meeting, which was also attended by Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour, the two sides reviewed Jordanian-Belgian trade and economic relations and the current ties between Jordan and the European Community (EC).

They also reviewed the agenda of a joint Jordanian-Belgian Economic Commission which opened meetings in Amman Monday to explore new avenues for promoting trade links between the two countries.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the commission is directing its efforts primarily towards bolstering bilateral cooperation in trade and industry, with Jordan benefiting from European expertise in agricultural, technical and technological fields.

Earlier, Mr. Urbain met with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and reviewed Jordanian-Belgian relations, the situation in the Middle East and regional and international issues of concern to the two sides.

Dr. Abu Jaber stressed the important role of the EC promoting efforts for peace in the region.

Before the meetings with the prime minister and foreign minister, Dr. Ensour and Mr. Urbain opened talks to discuss ways for increasing trade links between Belgium and Jordan.

According to Petra, both sides expressed their belief that Jordanian fruits and vegetables can be sold in Belgian markets, especially produce that can be grown in Jordan all-year-round.

Discussions also covered the exchange of other national products and the prospect of establishing Jordan as a centre for exporting Belgian goods to other

countries in the region, while Belgium would reciprocate with the export of Jordanian national products to Europe, Petra added.

The talks stressed the need for the two countries to launch cooperative endeavours in cultural and information fields and to explore prospects for cooperation in energy and mining.

The Belgian official said his country would be interested in increased trade and joint investment projects.

Present at the meeting were the presidents of the Amman Chambers of Commerce and Industry as well as the director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) who outlined their departments' efforts in selling Jordanian products. They also reviewed areas for investments in the country.

Technical teams from both sides met later to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, tourism, culture and information fields.

According to Petra, Belgium and Jordan are linked by a 1976 trade and economic agreement, but the balance of trade is heavily in favour of Belgium which sells Jordan milk powder, feed concentrates, medicines, garments, tractors, machines and auto and aircraft spare parts.

Jordan sells limited amounts of fruit and vegetables to the Belgian market.

The talks will continue today.

King receives cable from U.S. president

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a cable of congratulations from U.S. President Bill Clinton on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the King's assumption of constitutional powers.

The U.S. president said the anniversary commemorates Jordan's considerable accomplishments under His Majesty's reign and expresses Jordan's confidence in the future.

On this occasion, Mr. Clinton said, "we also recall that your reign in Jordan has marked a period of close and mutually beneficial relations between the United States and Jordan."

"Over the last 40 years," Mr. Clinton said, "Jordan has made great progress by pursuing a policy of moderation, pluralism, tolerance and free-market economic development."

The U.S. president said he looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

President Clinton said he

looks forward to continuing to work with the King "to oppose tyranny in the region and to bring the blessings of peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the Middle East."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Deadly traffic

WHEN 55 per cent of Jordanian drivers are involved in road accidents at one time or another, then something is terribly wrong with traffic in Jordan. A recent survey has revealed that most of those found to have committed traffic accidents were males; almost half of them had held driving licences for more than 10 years and about half of traffic violators were guilty of speed limits violations.

These figures paint a gloomy picture of the traffic situation in the country and the way it is managed. That means that the Kingdom's traffic rules, their enforcement and culture leave much to be desired. It also means that the people who are manning the traffic departments across the country need to rearrange traffic priorities and review the procedures for issuing drivers licence. Otherwise the country will continue to dish out licences to kill innocent people on the streets and highways of the nation.

The first thought that comes to mind is the proposition that traffic policy-makers may need a new sense of orientation by becoming exposed to more advanced and enlightened traffic policies. There is nothing wrong in sending senior traffic department personnel to foreign lands to get acquainted with the latest policies and technologies on how to manage traffic.

Left as it is, the road accidents rate in the country will continue to rise in proportion to the increase in the number of motor vehicles and the number of motorists who will operate them. Translated into economic terms, not to mention human terms, the price tag could be staggering for a country trying desperately to stand on its feet and become self-reliant.

It is obvious that any overhaul of the traffic situation in the country should target two categories of people: The motorists themselves and the traffic police. The performance of both parties is simply dismal and the record shows it. The sooner we realise that the way we are conducting ourselves as drivers and traffic police is lacking in many ways the sooner we can find an answer to the growing carnage on the state's arteries.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BETWEEN 1953 and 1993 Jordan has indeed achieved a miracle of development under King Hussein's Rule, and this is a fact known to the citizens of this country and beyond, said Al Ra'i daily Monday. The paper said that over the past 40 years the Jordanian people have been led by King Hussein in building schools and hospitals, setting up factories and universities, constructing roads and other edifices that speak of the great endeavours and the diligence of the people of this country. King Hussein's rule was in fact a continuous process of hard work, sacrifice and hope exercised and achieved by his people under his wise leadership, added the paper. Having achieved so much progress over the past four decades, it is hard for us to describe how things were long time ago and it is difficult to make our children understand that we lived without the asphalted roads, the piped water and the electricity we enjoy today, the paper continued. By celebrating 40 years of the King's rule the Jordanian people ought to talk about the hardships, the poverty, the meagre resources and other difficulties their fathers and forefathers had gone through at the start of the King's rule 40 years ago, said the paper. The paper expressed the Jordanians' affection and allegiance to the Hashemite throne, wishing the King continued health and happiness and success in the leadership of his country towards further progress.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour called the government's attention to the pitiable conditions of the bedouin tribes and residents of settlements in the remote south. The majority of these people lack proper medical attention, sufficient water and food supplies and live in abject poverty, said Taher Al Udwani. The writer drew the authorities' attention to the fact that most people in the remote regions of southern Jordan suffer from Tuberculosis and are in need of urgent help. He said that a brave and not expensive plan can save these peoples' lives and the construction of roads leading to the main highways can help the bedouins reach the nearest town to acquire the needed services. The writer said he had toured part of the south and found these people living in miserable conditions, adding that some, like those living in the village of Khaledieh, continue to suffer from the dangerous effects of the phosphate dust and gas, especially during the summer time. While Jordan continues to participate in all international efforts to fight pollution, its southern regions continue to suffer most from a polluted environment which tends to endanger their lives, the writer said. He called on the government to allocate sufficient funds aimed at dealing with the pockets of abject poverty. Tuberculosis and pollution in the south.

The View from Fourth Circle

Palestinian thoughtfulness triumphs over humiliation

The return home of 30 deported Palestinian leaders and activists this week, as part of the deal to resume the Arab-Israeli peace talks, is a very significant symbol of the trend of small but incremental Palestinian victories that will increasingly dominate the negotiations and political conditions in Palestine/Israel. The trend I have in mind, put in its simplest terms, is the conditional triumph of Palestinian national rights, patience, and rational diplomacy over the predatory threats of Zionist colonialism. I call this a conditional victory because it is not a total or absolute triumph. It is conditional on Palestinian and pan-Arab acceptance of the state of Israel. The symbolism of the return of the 30 deportees derives from several factors, including: a) the move resulted from some rather sophisticated Palestinian diplomatic brinksmanship that revolved around whether the peace negotiations would resume or not; b) this is one of the few times that Israel has reversed decisions which it said it had taken out of "national security" concerns; c) the repatriated Palestinians are all significant grassroots community leaders who are deeply politicised and who will strengthen the national infrastructure, especially the capacity of Palestinians to assume authority over all aspects of their lives (as the interim self-government arrangement anticipates); and d) the return of the Palestinian leaders coincides with a historic withdrawal of Zionism from the geographical periphery of Palestine (the West Bank and Gaza).

All of these factors strike me as very important, if one accepts the theory, as I do, that we are in the midsts of the historical checking of Zionist expansionism. The return of the deportees, following Israel's revival of the green line that separates Israel from the West Bank and Gaza, is a sign of the slow, steady birth of the state of Palestine. This is the consequence of three distinct realities: the authenticity and durability of the Palestinian Arab identity as manifested over the years by its leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the dramatic message of freedom that has emanated from the intifada, and the peace negotiations that started in October 1991.

It is ironic, therefore, that at this moment of progress for Palestinian rights there should be such strong expressions of scepticism about the peace talks by Palestinians in Palestine and throughout the diaspora. This scepticism reached its height when the 415 pro-Hamas activists were expelled to southern Lebanon last December, and it caused many Palestinians to take the emotional and hasty position that the peace talks would only resume when the mass expulsion was reversed.

Well, the talks have resumed, and the remaining 396 have not returned home yet, but there is progress in other fronts. The lesson of all this, I would suggest, is that the struggle for Palestinian and Arab rights should be conducted in the diplomatic context in which we have some power, leverage, and credibility—rather than on the battlefield of emotional rejectionism and political absolutism, where Israel has not only defeated us consistently, but has also made us look childish and politically immature.

The reason for the widespread Palestinian scepticism about the negotiations, I suspect, is simple and very natural political emotionalism. Israel and Zionism have defeated us physically to date, in the sense that they have occupied all of Palestine and some other Arab lands as well. But they have not defeated us

spiritually or politically, as evidenced by the sustainability of the Palestinian national struggle since the early days of this decade and also by the small gains we have made recently.

It is very difficult for the average Palestinian to admit that we have to give up three-fourths of the geography of our ancestral homeland in order to enjoy our rights on the one-fourth of Palestine that we expect to retain and to rule as a sovereign Palestinian Arab state. There is a deep human fear that lurks

"We have accepted to live in one-fourth of our ancestral lands, next door to an Israeli state, but only on the condition that the quality of Palestinian rights be equal to that of all others in the region, whether Israelis or Arabs."

behind the full political meaning of the peace talks and of an eventual peace accord in which the Palestinians only get the West Bank and Gaza. The human fear is that of humiliation. Palestinians do not want to accept the facts of the world as they are, a world in which we Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians and Lebanese have entered into peace negotiations whose ground rules were largely written by Israel and the United States, with

"There is no humility in talking peace, in negotiating on the basis of principles accepted by the whole world or in making compromises that can end the century of warfare in Palestine and usher in a new century of stability, human development and communal peace."

little bit of mumbo-jumbo mutterings about the U.N., the E.C. and the Russian cosponsors to make the talks appear balanced and bathed in the glow of international legitimacy.

In such a context, it is much easier to express scepticism about the peace talks than to accept the rigours and the challenges of peace-making based on compromise and less-than-absolutist gains. It is much easier, and emotionally and politically undemanding, to complain that the peace talks are simply a facade behind which the U.S. and Israel will achieve their own objectives, and, at best, give the Arabs the crumbs that are left over.

The threat of humiliation, however, is a poor negotiating parameter, and an unwelcomed historical companion. The PLO, the Palestinians and other Arabs who support the peace talks have demonstrated recently that they will not mortgage the

national rights of five million Palestinians and the future of many more millions of Palestinians to the short-term emotional fears of other fellow Palestinians and Arabs who lack the vision required to see a Palestinian state take shape, and who also lack the composure to make that state happen through diplomatic bargaining.

The return of the 30 deported Palestinian leaders is a small symbol in a larger struggle, a little victory in a big battle. But it is important because it provides some tangible proof that the peace talks will achieve results, and that there is reason for Palestinians to cheer for their country as they see it reconstituted before their eyes. The key to full victory—a Palestinian state that can enter into confederal relations with the adjacent state of Jordan—is to slay the spectre of humiliation that Zionism would hang over our heads.

The key to victory is more of the same sort of self-confidence that the Palestinians and the PLO have shown since 1973, when they accepted the principle of the partition of Palestine into Israeli and Arab states. We have accepted to live in one-fourth of our ancestral lands, next door to an Israeli state, but only on the condition that the quality of Palestinian rights be equal to that of all others in the region, whether Israelis or Arabs.

The key to victory is to persevere in promoting the process of Zionist withdrawal from parts of Palestine, and the birth of strong Palestinian institutions. There is no humility in talking peace, in negotiating on the basis of principles accepted by the whole world or in making compromises that can end the century of warfare in Palestine and usher in a new century of stability, human development and communal peace. There is no humility in providing the Palestinians with a small state that can act as the guarantor of their human, legal and political rights, that can offer them passports and legal protection.

The Israelis would like us to give in to the fear of humiliation, so that we surrender unconditionally to their dictates or quit the peace talks in a display of diplomatic immaturity and self-flagellation. But neither of these things will happen. The Palestinians have remained firm in focusing on the essence of the peace talks—an Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands, and a transfer of authority to the Palestinians in an interim governing phase, before final status talks are launched after three years.

This is good politics, and it also makes good emotional sense. The PLO and the many Palestinians and Arabs who back it should make their support for this policy more clear and more vocal, so that the loud voices of the sceptics do not drown out a majority of rational, patient and sensible Arabs who can smell victory. The PLO, with prodding, support, understanding, and cooperation from Jordan and other Arabs, has been courageous and prudent at the same time, and its policies are starting to pay off in diplomatic terms. This is a good moment, therefore, to assess the track record of the last half a century, to shun the politics of emotionalism and shame and to build on the self-confident legacy of Palestinian diplomacy that succeeds because it reflects the basic communal thoughtfulness and political strength of the Palestinian people and their Arab brothers and sisters.

© RAMI G. KHOURI / 1993

Croatia — unstable stage of 'forgotten war'

By Alison Smale
The Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia — If the West intervenes militarily against Serbs in Bosnia, nobody will be happier than the Serbs' deadly foes, the Croats.

By the logic of my-enemy's-enemy-is-my-friend, Croatia is likely to view western action against the Serbs as support for Croatia's own war against Serb forces.

Whether the West will want to embrace Croatia as an ally is less certain.

Although less frequently than Serbs, Croat forces have torched homes, "cleansed" villages and slaughtered Serb and Muslim civilians in Croatia and Bosnia. For that matter, there have been similar actions by Muslims against both Croatians and Serbs.

Though Croatia's leaders strongly favour western attacks against the Serbs, the West may stay at being seen as an ally of Croatia's ruling party. The party is dangerously split between former communists and extreme right-wing nationalists, who hark back to the World War II fascist regime that slaughtered Serbs, Jews and Gypsies. The party has also been accused of corruption.

Croatia has been independent for 20 months, since the old Yugoslavia broke up. More than a quarter of it is under Serb occupation, overseen by U.N. peacekeepers whose sole job is to keep fighting from flaring again.

In a 40-minute interview, Stipe Mesić, head of parliament and a top figure in President Franjo Tuđman's ruling Croatian Democratic Union, repeatedly urged the West to bomb the Serbs. Failure to do so, he said, amounts to endorsing their land grab.

If the world fails to win back Serb-occupied territory, he said, "Croatia will be to it."

Croatia launched a short-lived offensive Jan. 22 against Serbian positions, shattering a year of relative peace. Now battles rage daily between Serbs and Croats once again.

The situation in the southern part of Croatia is enormously dangerous," said Cedric Thornberry, a senior U.N. civilian official in former Yugoslavia. "There's a real danger of escalation. This is one of the forgotten wars."

Meanwhile, Croats of all political parties insist they won't rest until Croatia is free of occupation.

"Occupied territories must be liberated," said Bozo Kovacevic, general secretary of the largest opposition party, the Social Liberals. "In its actual form, Croatia cannot function."

Although the offensive brought

Serb shells once more crashing down on their heads, many Croatians profess to support it and are disappointed it wasn't more ambitious.

Since 1991, says Paul Beaver of Jane's Sentinel in London, Croatia has spent \$250 million on arms. According to the weekly Globus, the infant state can now manufacture most of the weapons it needs, save sufficient supplies of ammunition.

Media reports say a third of the 1993 budget will go to the army.

Meantime, there are thousands of Zagreb residents who rise before dawn to queue for coarse "black bread" and don't know how to cope with recent price increases averaging 50 per cent on a wide range of essential goods and services.

Politicians are more beholden to each other than the public, and are therefore threatened by the split in Mr. Tuđman's party. That split also can affect Croatia's war efforts.

Although a formal division exists between Croatia and Bosnian Croats, there is close cooperation. Nationalists in Mr. Tuđman's party appear to be particularly close to Croatian forces in Bosnia.

Bosnian Croats engaged last week in bitter fighting with their nominal Muslim allies in the Bosnian army. Reports of atrocities by both sides were widespread.

Extremist Croat groups outside any Croatian control were seen in "full regalia, Nazi flashes, nasty stuff" in central Bosnia, Mr. Thornberry said, noting that irregular extremist Muslims also engaged in fighting and atrocities.

The widespread political upheavals we are now witnessing in many parts of the world are largely due to the absence of viable political mechanisms for channelling peaceful change within these societies, resulting in an over reliance on coercive measures to suppress recalcitrant groups that are blessed with a high degree of stability have become so not because conflicting interests were absent or because they were successfully suppressed but because they were successfully accommodated.

Conflict arising out of scarcity and incompatible values is a feature of all human societies, including those that are highly organised. Those civil societies that are blessed with a high degree of stability have become so not because conflicting interests were absent or because they were successfully suppressed but because they were successfully accommodated.

The widespread political upheavals we are now witnessing in many parts of the world are largely due to the absence of viable political mechanisms for channelling peaceful change within these societies, resulting in an over reliance on coercive measures to suppress recalcitrant groups that are blessed with a high degree of stability have become so not because conflicting interests were absent or because they were successfully suppressed but because they were successfully accommodated.

The long-simmering conflict in the ruling party between an extreme nationalist wing, which counts the support of many rich emigre Croats, and ex-communists like Mr. Tuđman, burst into public view April 23.

In an interview with Globus, Josip Boljkovac, former Tuđman ally and senior policeman under the communists, branded the right wing "an extreme, sick group of people which wants power at any cost."

Although the government has cracked down on right-wing extremists outside the party, nationalists inside are considered so dangerous that intellectuals find themselves supporting people like Mr. Boljkovac.

In a state short of respected laws and institutions, even Mr. Tuđman's critics hope he survives.

"I really disagree with Tuđman as a president and as a person," said Mr. Kovacevic. "But he is the guarantee that neither of these two undemocratic wings gets power."



M.KAHIL

Monarchy: The stabilising force in our society

By Dr. Radwan Radi Abdalkarim

The writer, who is head of the Political Science Department of Jordan University, attempts to identify the factors that made for the uniqueness of the Jordanian experience under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein over the past forty years, as well as the uniqueness of the King's contribution to it.

Jordan stands out as an oasis of stability in a volatile region. This stability, under which our society thrived and prospered, is not a minor achievement, considering the difficult circumstances the country faced. The far more remarkable achievement is the almost total absence of coercion or repression in bringing it about. The stability of Jordan was never the precarious stability that is based on fear and terror, so much in vogue in the contemporary world. This is the one feature of His Majesty the King's rule that all Jordanians treasure and most foreign observers admire.

Conflict arising out of scarcity and incompatible values is a feature of all human societies, including those that are highly organised. Those civil societies that are blessed with a high degree of stability have become so not because conflicting interests were absent or because they were successfully suppressed but because they were successfully accommodated.

The widespread political upheavals we are now witnessing in many parts of the world are largely due to the absence of viable political mechanisms for channelling peaceful change within these societies, resulting in an over reliance on coercive measures to suppress recalcitrant groups that are blessed with a high degree of stability have become so not because conflicting interests were absent or because they were successfully suppressed but because they were successfully accommodated.

The long-simmering conflict in the ruling party between an extreme nationalist wing, which counts the support of many rich emigre Croats, and ex-communists like Mr. Tuđman, burst into public view April 23.

In an interview with Globus, Josip Boljkovac, former Tuđman ally and senior policeman under the communists, branded the right wing "an extreme, sick group of people which wants power at any cost."

Although the government has cracked down on right-wing extremists outside the party, nationalists inside are considered so dangerous that intellectuals find themselves supporting people like Mr. Boljkovac.

The long-simmering conflict in the ruling party between an extreme nationalist wing, which counts the support of many rich emigre Croats, and ex-communists like Mr. Tuđman, burst into public view April 23.

In an interview with Globus, Josip Boljkovac, former Tuđman ally and senior policeman under the communists, branded the right wing "an extreme, sick group of people which wants power at any cost."

Although the government has cracked down on right-wing extremists outside the party, nationalists inside are considered so dangerous that intellectuals find themselves supporting people like Mr. Boljkovac.

The long-simmering conflict in the ruling party between an extreme nationalist wing, which counts the support of many rich emigre Croats, and ex-communists like Mr. Tuđman, burst into public view April 23.

In an interview with Globus, Josip Boljkovac, former Tuđman ally and senior policeman under the communists, branded the right wing "an extreme, sick group of people which wants power at any cost."

Features

Palestinians on 'listening mode'

(Continued from page 1)

Israelis have also accepted a Palestinian request that house demolition orders already issued be cancelled and immediate steps will be taken to issue reunification papers to around 5,000 family members living in the occupied territories without permits. But as Palestinian negotiators point out, these moves deal with halting the regression of the situation in the occupied territories but as of yet do not cover the ground ahead on unproven human rights and living conditions.

But the more tantalising and perhaps the most dangerous surging element is an Israeli proposal to allow Palestinians "early empowerment" over certain aspects of life in the occupied territories even before Palestinian Interim Self Government Arrangement (PISGA) is agreed upon and under way. For the moment the Israeli side is proposing that Palestinians prepare themselves for immediate takeover of the civil police authority, health, education and tourism in the West Bank and Gaza, including budget allocations from the Israeli government and freedom to channel aid from Arab and other countries. The list does not end at that and pending agreements on these categories, the Israelis say, more could be coming.

The fear among Palestinian negotiators is that it would set a precedent whereby a settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict would become compartmentalised and superficial. Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, in a press briefing over the weekend, insisted that the Palestinians will not accept such proposals unless it was established that these steps are taken within "a comprehensive political framework."

The fact that the Israelis are quick to lace their early empowerment proposal with a clear message that administering these sectors does not in any way mean that the issue of jurisdiction over land will be tackled, makes it difficult to swallow the publicised good intentions behind it. "Early empowerment cannot exclude East Jerusalem," Palestinian negotiators say but the Israelis maintain that "East Jerusalem is out of the preliminary negotiations and therefore cannot be included in this package."

Faisal Husseini, the overall head of the Palestinian team, told reporters this weekend that the issue of East Jerusalem and settlement cannot be ignored by the

a concept.

While all these steps indicate, and rightly so, that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are finally tackling issues of value, to their peoples they remain only steps towards the real issues of conflict.

Several important issues remain static in these negotiations. Linkage between a temporary PISGA agreement and the final status talks is still a point of contention, with Israel doing very little to come closer to the internationally-accepted interpretation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 which is the only acceptable political framework for a settlement of the conflict for the Arabs.

Arab negotiators believe that while these moves are steps to-wards active negotiations, until now there has been no substantial engagement on the substance of these issues. "The Israelis have allowed the Palestinians to put an agenda for talks but have not actually delivered on the substance behind the headlines," a senior Arab negotiator said.

The Palestinians, although obviously anxious to take the Israeli movement positively, do not fail to point out that "we have probably established a launching pad on which we can build gradually."

"We did not achieve all we wanted," Dr. Ashrawi said this weekend, adding on a positive note that perhaps the "Palestinians now are being repaid in lieu of our own payments over the past stage of negotiations."

King pledges

(Continued from page 1)

presented the King with a copy of the Holy Koran in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the King's assumption of his constitutional powers.

King Hussein thanked the speakers of parliament and voiced his pride in the democratic march in the Kingdom and called for further deepening of the process of democracy and enabling it to contribute further towards Jordan's prosperity and progress and enhancing the meaning of freedom, democracy and rights.

Mr. Lawzi and Dr. Arabyah voiced parliament's deep appreciation of the

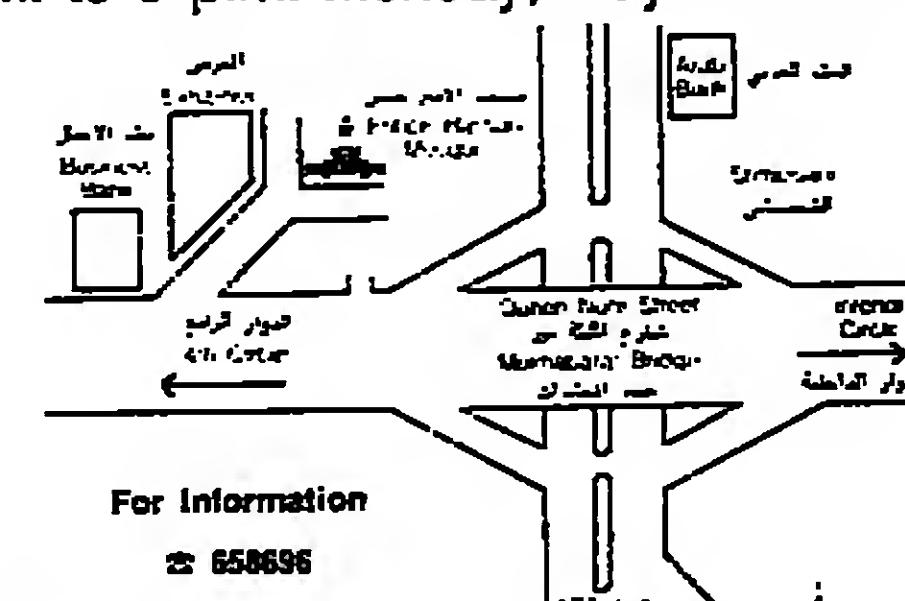
King's efforts and achievements for the Jordanian people and the Arab Nation.

King Hussein met separately Monday at the Royal Court with the chairman and members of a higher committee that organised the celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the King's assumption of his constitutional powers and forged ahead along the path of progress.

"I have been honoured by all people of my country and I feel that I have not yet offered enough for the country which faces great challenges and I am deeply grateful to you all and wish you continued success," he said.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid, the chairman of the committee, said at the audience that the committee's efforts reflected the deep love they have for the King who has offered so many sacrifices over the past four decades.

Don't miss seeing the Bed Covers and many other attractive handmade items at the Jordan River Designs Spring Exhibition held in Shmeisani in the new building next to the Business Bank opposite Prince Hassan Mosque. Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th



Planning a Wedding? Moving to a New House?? Need a Unique Gift???

For Information
655696

JORDAN RIVER designs

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7th

For Information
655696

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, May 3rd thru Friday, May 7

Lakers stun Suns again

PHOENIX (R) — The surprising Los Angeles Lakers proved their game one upset was no fluke Sunday as they stunned the Phoenix Suns again to take a commanding 2-0 lead in their best-of-five first-round National Basketball Association playoff series.

Vlade Divac scored four of his 19 points in the final 12:23 as the Lakers held off the Suns for a shocking 86-81 victory.

The Lakers, the team with the worst record in the playoffs, can finish off the league's best club with a victory at home Tuesday night in what would be one of the biggest upsets in NBA playoff history.

Strong defence by Los Angeles and poor shooting by Phoenix made the difference down the stretch as the Lakers held the Suns without a field goal for the final 6:55 to erase a 78-72 deficit.

"I think we played best defence we played all season," said Divac, who grabbed 13 rebounds.

"If somebody asked if I thought we could beat Phoenix twice I would have said 'no way,'" he said.

In New York, John Starks scored 12 of his playoff career-high 29 points in the fourth quarter to rally the Knicks to a 101-91 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

New York holds a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five Eastern Conference series with the Pacers facing elimination at home Tuesday.

The Knicks, who led the league in fewest points allowed per game, held the Pacers to 36 second-half points.

The Chicago Bulls remained on track in their quest to win a third consecutive NBA title with another convincing win at home against the Atlanta Hawks.

Michael Jordan scored 29 points and Scottie Pippen added 25 as Chicago cruised to a 117-102 win that gave them a 2-0 lead in their best-of-five first-round play-off series.

Chicago has not lost a first-round game since 1990.

Dominique Wilkins scored 37 points and Kevin Willis added 26 for the Hawks, who will host game three Tuesday.

Boston's Lewis to miss

playoffs with heart problem

The Boston Celtics will be without leading scorer Reggie Lewis for the remainder of the playoffs due to cardiac abnormalities, spokesman at New England Baptist Hospital said Sunday night.

Lewis passed out during Boston's 112-101 victory over the Charlotte Hornets Thursday night in the opener of their first-round playoff series and he missed the Celtics' loss in game two Saturday.

Lewis has been hospitalised since Thursday, undergoing a battery of tests.

"Initial cardiac evaluation of Reggie Lewis has now been completed," a hospital statement said. "Cardiac abnormalities have been identified that are likely to have contributed to his loss of consciousness during Thursday night's game."

The 27-year-old Lewis became Boston's captain when Larry Bird retired before the season. He averaged 20.8 points per game.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



© 1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Man. United win title

LONDON (AP) — Twenty-six years of heartache and frustration ended for Manchester United Sunday as England's most famous and popular soccer club at last recaptured the elusive League title.

Although United had triumphed in the European Champions and Cupwinners Cups, won the Football Association Cup four times and domestic League Cup once, the League title had stayed away from Old Trafford since Sir Matt Busby's team won it in 1967.

Five managers who succeeded Busby tried and failed to win the League title despite spending millions to hire the best players available.

Eventually another Scot, Alex Ferguson, did it in his sixth season in charge.

United fans believe it was a triumph that was long overdue. During those 26 years, United had finished runner up four times and placed third three times.

The Old Trafford faithful saw near neighbour Liverpool establish itself as England's most powerful team with 11 titles during that same period.

Now the United followers hope the pendulum has swung in their direction again.

Ferguson's team finished runner up to Leeds last season after leading for much of the campaign. This time it was involved

in a close battle with Aston Villa and Norwich.

The current lineup contains a Dane, a Frenchman and a Ukrainian.

Peter Schmeichel is rated one of the world's best goalies and was on Denmark's team that won the European Championship last year.

Andrei Kanchelskis was hired from Shakhtyor Donetsk two seasons ago and has made his name as a fast-raiding winger.

Frenchman Eric Cantona also made a stunning impact since his surprise move from Leeds mid-season.

Cantona has scored some memorable goals among his nine in 19 games and law appreciates the value of having such a quality player on the team.

"Manchester United could have been made for his talents," the Scot said. "The fans love the back-heels, the flicks and feints, I honestly believe his magic has rubbed off on other players."

White Cantona could be likened to law in terms of producing the unexpected in front of goal, United also appears to have found another George Best.

Ryan Giggs is a 19-year-old Welsh winger who likes to beat two or three defenders and home in for goal. His performances have earned him call ups for Wales and he scored on his full debut in a 1-0 victory Belgium in a World Cup game.



Teamwork, talent buoy Swiss toward World Cup: Switzerland's first World Cup berth since 1966 has moved within easy reach thanks to a crop of exceptional talent paired with veteran players in a strong-willed team. Long overshadowed by Switzerland's skiers, the soccer team took a two-point lead in its World Cup qualifying group by beating Italy in a major competition for the first time in 39 years. The 1-0 win, secured in the second half after the referee sent off Italian midfielder Dino Baggio for a feet-first tackle, virtually clinched Switzerland's berth in next year's 24-nation World Cup finals in the United States. In above photo by AFP the Swiss soccer team jubilates after scoring the winning goal.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Lendl wins 93rd career title

MUNICH (AP) — Ivan Lendl saved his best match for last as he beat Germany's Michael Stich 7-6 (7-2), 6-3 Sunday to win the \$300,000 BMW Open and earn his 93rd career title. In a match delayed by rain for two hours, Lendl took command when the German's serve failed him at a key moment in the first set. For the 33-year-old Lendl, who had struggled through the early rounds, it was his first title on clay since winning in Bordeaux in 1989. Lendl, ranked eighth, trailed unseeded Cedric Pioline 6-1, 6-7 (7-1), 1-0 in his semifinal match Saturday when the Frenchman was forced to withdraw because of a thigh injury.

Vert Amande proves surprise of Prix Ganay

PARIS (R) — Vert Amande, trained by Elie Lelloche, won a battle against British-trained five-year-old Opera House to take the Prix Ganay — the first French group one race of the season — at Longchamp Sunday. Arlington Million hero Dear Doctor started a hot favourite to win the extended 10-furlong event, but, after looking to be going ominously well under Texan Cash Asmussen, he weakened to finish fourth. Dear Doctor's collapse opened the way up for a struggle between Vert Amande, having his first race of the season, and Opera House. Vert Amande, racing in the colours of Spanish owner Enrique Sarasola and ridden by Dominique Boeuf, eventually gained the upper hand on a heavy track to pip the Michael Roberts-ridden Opera House by a short neck.

Zambian national soccer team players buried

LUSAKA (AP) — President Frederick Chiluba wept as he joined more than 100,000 mourners for the funeral 18 members of the national soccer team and 12 others killed in an air crash last week. Field artillery fired a 21-gun salute as the caskets, draped in Zambia's national colours of green, red and gold and crowned with floral wreaths, were lowered into the ground just outside Lusaka's Independence Football Stadium. "Today we intern our heroes. But we don't bury their spirits, their dreams and their aspirations," said a weeping Chiluba. "These heroes made the supreme sacrifice in the national cause." The players were flying from Mauritius in the Indian Ocean to Senegal last Wednesday when their Zambian Air Force Buffalo c115 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Gabon.

Lewis fifth in 400 metres debut

HOUSTON (R) — Eight-time Olympic champion Carl Lewis ran the 400 metres in competition for the first time in his illustrious career at the Houston invitational athletics meeting Sunday and came away encouraged, despite a fifth-place finish. Mike Marsh, the 200 metres Olympic champion, ran the 400 for the first time since 1989 and won the event with a time of 45.53 seconds. Wayne Payne finished second in 46.39 and Gabriel Luke was third in 46.51. Lewis, who has won Olympic gold at 100 and 200 metres and holds the 100 metre world record, said he just might try the longer distance again. "I haven't run it before, but if I get the chance to run it again, I'll have more confidence to go out faster. I didn't die or anything at the end."

Steffi Graf fails to set new record

Steffi Graf failed to become the first player to win a tournament seven consecutive times when she



Steffi Graf

was beaten in straight sets by Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in Sunday's final of the Hamburg Open.

Graf, the No. 2 seed and defending champion, carried over her indifferent form from the semi-finals and rarely offered the 3rd seeded Spaniard a real challenge.

In order not to penalise Seles unfairly for the incident, the Women's Tennis Association decided to award Seles the same number of points for the tournament as she won in the corresponding week last year, when she lost in the final of the Italian Open.

The exceptional decision means her tour computer ranking, which is based on average points over the last year, is unchanged.

Graf fails to set new record:

Steffi Graf failed to become the first player to win a tournament seven consecutive times when she



Kevin Schwantz, No. 34, and Wayne Rainey No. 1, both from the U.S., negotiate a fight curve during the Spanish Motorcycle Gp. Schwantz clinched the title while Rainey finished second (AFP photo)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF AND TANNAH HIRSCH
© 1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AQ1076 ♦865 ♦9 ♦KQ63 Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦Q762 ♦A3 ♦A ♦876432 Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦Void ♦63 ♦AKJ983 ♦Q9843 Your right-hand opponent passes. What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AQ22 ♦K ♦865 ♦A ♦762 The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K106 ♦Q ♦QJ6 ♦AQ1054 The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1993

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 4, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon you will find it difficult to arrange the practical side of your existence and the afternoon, though better aspects find you restless with all kinds of ideas. Some sound, some visionary, that require considerable analysis.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Handle activities that have not

been completed rather than getting

involved in new interests but the

evening can be utilized to study

new ambition.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

You need to consider what you

personally desire from life and do

nothing of a practical nature that

can in anyway endanger your

security.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Don't allow a negative associate to

distract you from your career

duties during the daytime but spend

time with that person in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

Don't get bowled over by

some change in work interests but

spend time instead looking into

new ways and means for being

more successful.

LEO: (July 22 August 21)

Stick to business interests that require your

personal attention during the day-

time and avoid the temptation to

go off on some pleasure jaunt.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22)

Home can be a tense place to

be early in the day so get out early

and meet with partners and associates

for your mutual advancement and progress.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

Keep improving your work surroundings and make sure you do not go off with a purposeless

individual so that your duties suffer

in the eyes of others.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)

Put aside those practical matters for the moment and think out what you can best do to be more productive with your special capabilities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

You need to forget yourself today and your own personal projects and spend your time as much as possible doing those things you family desire.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

A private anxiety if allowed to preoccupy your time

can keep you from the many things you can do in the outside world so get out and achieve.

Khmer Rouge attack Siem Reap, briefly capture airport

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked the town of Siem Reap Monday and briefly captured its airport in what United Nations officials called the most serious challenge so far to peacekeeping forces in Cambodia.

Dozens of tourists took shelter with U.N. peacekeepers as a force of at least 200 guerrillas pounded the town with rockets, mortars and automatic rifles, U.N. officials said.

No U.N. personnel or tourists were injured in the early-morning attack, which was aimed at a garrison of the Phnom Penh army between Siem Reap Airport and the Angkor temple sites, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

A U.N. military officer to Siem Reap said four attackers had been confirmed killed and one wounded. Some civilian casualties were also reported, he said.

Radio Phnom Penh, the voice of the government, said three civilians and one government soldier were killed.

A Reuters correspondent saw two bodies in Khmer Rouge uniforms on the side of a road near the garrison. One had been shot in the head and one in the chest.

"Are there any Vietnamese here?" the raiders had shouted at an old woman in the village of Vien, seven kilometres east of Siem Reap Airport.

"They took one look at my husband and said 'you look like Vietnamese,'" the woman told Reuters. She said they then shot him in the arm.

Tourists had taken refuge at the base of French Foreign Legion troops belonging to the peacekeeping force, which is in the Siem Reap town centre, the officer said.

Officials confirm Koresh died in Waco fire

WACO, Texas (R) — U.S. authorities have confirmed David Koresh died in the flames that consumed the compound of his cult last month, ending speculation the charismatic leader of the Branch Davidian sect may have escaped.

Mr. Koresh had a gunshot wound to the forehead, James Collier, justice of the peace for McLennan County where the compound stood, told a news conference in Waco Sunday.

But officials could not say if the wound was self-inflicted.

"The cause of death at this particular point is still pending," Justice of the Peace David Pareya said. "The preliminary finding would be a gunshot wound to the head."

The gunshot wound was located above the nose, Justice Pareya said.

"The skull itself was absolutely broken up into multiple fragments," he said.

Nizam Peerwani, a Fort Worth, Texas medical examiner, and his team, who have been trying to put names to the charred remains taken from the compound, identified Mr. Koresh from dental records and X-rays.

The 33-year-old Koresh — regarded by his followers as the messiah — sustained gunshot wounds in the side and wrist when federal agents raided the compound near Waco on Feb. 28, and these injuries also helped identify the body.

That raid by the Bureau of Alcohol and Firearms to arrest Mr. Koresh for weapons violations turned into a gun battle in which four agents and six cult members died.

A 51-day siege began. The stand-off ended on April 19 when fire swept the compound, turning the buildings into ashes, after an assault by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents in which tanks were used to spray tear gas into buildings.

Medical examiner Peerwani and his staff of pathologists have confirmed the identity of MCDOE18 (the number given to one of the corpses) as that of David Koresh, Justice Collier said.

Arson investigators say the cult members started the fire in several different locations. Some of the nine survivors of the fire say the FBI tanks knocked over kerosene lanterns.

Mr. Koresh's body was found in a room near the kitchen area that had been the "communications headquarters" from which cult members spoke with FBI negotiators, Justice Collier said.

Mr. Koresh's body was one of 39 removed from the compound site on April 22, Justice Pareya said.

So far, 15 bodies have been identified.

Mr. Falt said Khmer Rouge guerrillas were responsible for the attack, but the officer in Siem Reap said it was too early to identify the attackers.

The officer said the assault was the most serious to confront the United Nations since the peacekeepers arrived in March 1992 to implement a U.N. peace plan and elections.

The Khmer Rouge has opted out of the peace process and threatened to use violence to disrupt the elections, scheduled for May 23-27.

The guerrillas entered Siem Reap at about 4:30 a.m. shooting sporadically in all directions with assault rifles and rocket grenades, the officer said.

Dozens of tourists and U.N. personnel had taken shelter at a Bangladeshi army base and the French base, he said. Both are attached to the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is staging elections in the country this month.

Siem Reap, home to the fabled 12th century temple complex of Angkor that lures thousands of visitors each year, is 240 kilometres northwest of Phnom Penh. A tank and two armoured personnel carriers stood guard at the temple complex.

Siem Reap is the major town of northern Cambodia and the centrepiece of that region's communications network.

The Khmer Rouge lacked the military strength for a sustained attack, Mr. Falt said.

There was shooting towards the airport but there was absolutely no damage to the airport or the Polish logistics base," he said.

Airport building showed no signs of major damage Monday afternoon. Bangladeshi troops

stood guard on the rooftops of airport buildings.

Government troops brought at least one tank into the town centre in a show of force after fending off the attack, he said.

"Everything is pretty much back to normal, people are going about their business and the shops are trading," the officer said.

Mr. Falt said the guerrillas, who refuse to abide by the peace pact they signed in 1991, held Siem Reap Airport for a couple of hours before government troops recaptured it.

The Khmer Rouge have agreed to send a representative to an emergency meeting of Cambodia's rival factions in Peking called this week by Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, well informed sources said here Monday.

A military guard stands with bowed head as a Buddhist monk passes the coffin of slain Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa Monday at Mr. Premadasa's family residence (AFP photo)



President Ranasinghe Premadasa Monday at Mr. Premadasa's family residence (AFP photo)

Sri Lanka mourns Premadasa

COLOMBO (R) — Thousands of Sri Lankans filed past the coffin of slain President Ranasinghe Premadasa Monday as calm returned to the capital two days after the assassination by suspected separatist Tamil rebels.

The sources, who are familiar with Cambodia developments, named the official as Chan Youran, the Khmer Rouge ambassador to Peking.

The meeting, which is to take place in the Chinese capital Wednesday and Thursday, will bring together representatives of all rival Cambodian factions — the Phnom Penh government, the Khmer Rouge, the government's bitter foe, and two small guerrilla groups allied to the Khmer Rouge during the Cambodian War.

Prince Sihanouk, who is currently in Peking, where he says he needs to undergo medical treatment, has told the factions that participants need not be members of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

Security forces patrolled the streets of Colombo while long lines of mourners paid their respects at Mr. Premadasa's coffin which, against tradition, was sealed. His bomb-shattered body could be identified only by his colour and ring.

Police said the final death toll from the suicide bomb attack Saturday's May Day rally was 24. "The LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) are the prime suspects in the killing," a senior police officer told a news conference Sunday.

Police released a picture of the killer, believed to have been as

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party's Central Committee decided to call for urgent presidential and parliamentary elections, a party spokesman said, adding that the committee had decided not to contest the presidential poll in parliament.

Presidential polls are not due until the end of 1994 and parliamentary polls the following year.

The opposition Sri Lanka Muslim Congress wrote to Mr. WIJETUNGA Monday proposing the formation of a national government and changes to the constitution.

The main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party Monday called for snap presidential and parliamentary polls.

Under the constitution, a new president elected by parliament will serve the rest of Mr. Premadasa's term, which expires at the end of 1994.

The ruling United National Party has unanimously picked Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, who took over as acting president Saturday, as its presidential candidate.

Parliament will meet in special session Tuesday to set a date for nominations for president.

"The Sri Lanka Freedom Party

was likely to return to the war zone if the situation remained calm after Mr. Premadasa's state funeral Thursday.

The main opposition Sri Lanka Muslim Congress wrote to Mr. WIJETUNGA Monday proposing the formation of a national government and changes to the constitution.

Meanwhile police visited news papers offices and sifted through film of newspaper photographers who covered Mr. Premadasa's rally, looking for more clues as to the identity of the killer.

The LTTE, fighting for a separate state, has denied it killed Mr. Premadasa. It also rejected government accusations that it was responsible for the murder of Lalith Athulathmudali, leader of the Democratic United National Front who was shot dead by a gunman on April 23.

Kennedy to sell Palm Beach estate

COLUMN

Supermodel to marry U2 rock star

DUBLIN (R) — British supermodel Naomi Campbell said she is engaged to be married to Adam Clayton, a bass guitar player with Irish Rock Group U2. Ms. Campbell, 23, who became the first black model to appear on the cover of the British and French issues of *Vogue* fashion magazine, showed off her engagement ring on Irish Television. "Adam popped the question on the phone when I was in New York. He was very straightforward about it," she said. "There is a lot of trust between us and that is what I always wanted." The tall supermodel was introduced to her fiance three months ago by Bono, U2's singer. Before that Ms. Campbell was often seen with American actor Robert De Niro. Ms. Campbell, who recently appeared in rock star Madonna's book *Sex*, will probably marry Clayton after U2's upcoming four-month tour, friends said.

Husband tried to burn wife to death with alcohol

PEKING (R) — A Chinese brewer worker tried to burn his wife to death during a quarrel by pouring alcohol over her and setting it alight, the People's Daily said.

To increase her agony, he then "applied rags soaked in pickle juice to her face," the newspaper said in a report on the arrest of the man, Jiang Guojun, 33. The woman's relatives finally took her to hospital, where she was treated for burns on 45 per cent of her body. The incident happened in Hailar, Inner Mongolia.

Kennedy to sell Palm Beach estate

NEW YORK (R) — The Kennedy family is selling its Palm Beach estate, which was the focus of the William Kennedy Smith rape case two years ago. Newsweek magazine reported Sunday. The magazine quoted a source close to the family as saying the oceanfront property has an estimated value of \$3.6 million, even though the house is in "rather dowdy" condition. A spokeswoman for Senator Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, had no comment on the report.

William Kennedy Smith, a nephew of the senator and of the late President John Kennedy, was acquitted last year of charges he raped a woman on the grounds of the compound in March 1991. The house, which has been in the family since the days of Kennedy patriarch Joseph Kennedy, was a favourite vacation spot of President Kennedy and was nicknamed the "winter white house."

Robbers grab \$1m in gold, jewelry in New York

NEW YORK (R) — Robbers stole \$1 million worth of gold and jewelry from a business in New York's diamond district, one of the world's major diamond trading centres, police said. A spokesman said one or more suspects entered through a rear window of the offices of the Ordan Corp. on West 47th Street in Manhattan. They smashed open two safes and took an estimated \$1 million in gold and jewelry, he said. The robbery was discovered around 2 a.m. (0600 GMT) Sunday. The diamond district, on West 47th Street in midtown Manhattan, is one of the major diamond trading centres in the world.

Children ask court to force father to visit them

LONDON (AP) — The children of a separated couple said they want a court order forcing their father to visit them. Aaron Wilson, 11, and his sister, Nicole, 10, are acting under the Childrens Act which gives youngsters the right to take legal action against their parents. Their parents, Mark and Tracey, separated four years ago. Mark Wilson phones the children on their birthdays and at Christmas, but has not seen them for two years, they said. "We want our dad to come and see us," said Nicole, who lives with her mother, Aaron and 4-year-old sister Jade in Birmingham, 116 kilometres northwest of London. Mark Wilson lives in Ireland. "The kids are desperate to see us," said Mark. "Mrs. Wilson said, "They dream of going on holiday with him or playing in the park like other children." Lawyer Brendan Fleming, who is acting for the children, said he believes this is one of the first cases of its kind in Britain. Previous cases under the 1989 Childrens Act have involved teenagers applying to live away from their parents.

Group claims responsibility for south Africa killings

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A man claiming to represent the Azanian National Liberation Army told the South African Press Association Monday he coordinated Saturday's attack on an Eastern Cape hotel in which five whites were killed.

The man, who refused to give his name or to say where he was calling from, warned that there would be more attacks by AZANLA, the military wing of the Harare-based black consciousness movement of Azania.

He told the agency the attack at Highgate Hotel on the outskirts of East London was carried out by three guerrillas, while a fourth person waited in a getaway car.

The Azanian Peoples Organisation (AZAPO), the black consciousness movement's allies in South Africa, said the movement's leaders in neighbouring Zimbabwe would prefer not to comment about the attack at this stage.

Law And Order Ministry spokesman Captain Craig Kotze called on the black consciousness movement to "confirm or deny this claim as a matter of urgency."

Military analyst Jakkie Cilliers said the claim of AZANLA responsibility should be treated with caution.

Police have offered a 150,000 rand (\$50,000) reward and named two blacks it was seeking following the killings.

The IAEA, the Vienna-based nuclear watchdog, last month turned over the matter to the U.N. Security Council, which may consider sanctions unless North Korea changes its mind before the withdrawal becomes official on June 12.

The North, one of the world's last hardline Communist governments, has threatened to take "self-defensive" measures if sanctions are imposed.

The United States and North Korea will hold counsellor-level talks this week in Peking to discuss Pyongyang's withdrawal from the NPT and a future high-level meeting, press reports said Monday.

An unidentified diplomatic source here was quoted by the Chosun Daily as saying the meeting would "focus on North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT" and future high-level U.S.-North Korean contacts.

The most recent serious clash was in May last year when three North Korean soldiers were killed and two South Koreans were injured after the North Koreans crossed into the southern part of the DMZ.

Sunday's incident comes at a time of heightened tension between the two Koreas, caused by Pyongyang's announcement last March that it was withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) rather than allowing inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of two military

N. Korean troops fire on South

world's attention.

Kim Gi-Ryong, chairman of North Korea's State Information Committee, demanded that Washington accept this and stop practising double standards if it wanted Pyongyang back in the NPT.

Mr. Kim's demand was made ahead of working-level talks reportedly taking place this week in Peking between North Korea and the United States aimed at discussing Pyongyang's March 12 decision to withdraw from the NPT and pave the way for future high-level talks.

The spokesman said two bullets were fired from a machine gun across the border in the central Korean section of the demilitarised zone (DMZ) Sunday evening.

He said South Korean guards did not return fire and no casualties were reported.

"Investigations are under way, but it appears the shooting was triggered accidentally," he added.

A South Korean Defence Ministry source said: "It seems not to be a provoked firing and we don't attach much significance to the incident."

Shooting incidents are occasionally reported along the DMZ, a four-kilometre wide strip of no man's land that has divided the two Koreas since the 1950-53 Korean War.

The most recent serious clash was in May last year when three North Korean soldiers were killed and two South Koreans were injured after the North Koreans crossed into the southern part of the DMZ.

Sunday's incident comes at a time of heightened tension between the two Koreas, caused by Pyongyang's announcement last March that it was withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) rather than allowing inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of two military

strongholds in northern Tajikistan have come back to find their homes destroyed, their jobs taken and their neighbours hardly jibed at their return.

The refugees, mostly farmers, have been jobless for months and their children, dressed in rags and playing in mud puddles, have forgotten what schools look like.

"When you travel here, you can hear children coughing, coughing everywhere," says Nicolas Krzemien, a 32-year-old pediatrician with the humanitarian aid organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

Kabadiyan's refugees are part of at least 500,000 displaced persons who have been returning in waves from northern Afghanistan following eight months of war between pro-Communist and Islamic fighters last year and a bloody crackdown against the Islamic opposition ordered by the pro-Communist government of Imomali Rakhmonov last December.

Most of them fled former Islamic strongholds in the north-central region of Garm and parts of the Pamir region in the east of Tajikistan.

Between May and December 1992 this small Central Asian country was devastated by a civil war that pitted pro-Communist forces against Islamic-democratic forces which claimed thousands of lives.

</div